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1950, pp 68-147.

IMMINENT CONFLICT HINTED IN SOVIET SEDIMENTARY PETROGRAPHY;
ALL-UNION CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN 1951

An imminent conflict in the theory of Soviet sedimentary petrography is hinted at in two articles: L. V. Pustovalov's "The Problem of Principles in the Science of Sedimentary Rocks" and N. M. Strakhov's "The Problem of the General Theory of the Sedimentary Process," in the publication Izvestiya Akademii Nauk SSSR, Seriya Geologicheskaya, No 4, 1950. These articles represent widely divergent outlooks on the theory of the sedimentary process and are filled with charges and recriminations. For example, when Pustovalov quotes liberally from the classics of dialectical materialism, Strakhov answers that that quotations from Marxism on the importance of theory in science and the damage of empiricism cannot help an inherently weak case.

The editors of the above publication, in taking note of these articles, granted that the Soviet period has been characterized by the extensive development of the petrography of sedimentary rocks and the successful discovery of many new deposits of oil, coal, iron, manganese and other ores by many different methodological approaches as described in the first generalized works and texts on sedimentary petrography by A. N. Zavaritskiy (1932), M. S. Shvetsov (1934), and L. V. Pustovalov (1940). Considerable research data on lithology has been amassed since the appearance of these works, however, and the editors believe that this necessitates scientific generalizations on sediment formation and theories of the sedimentary process. In addition, they believe that various studies must be evaluated critically and the future over-all tasks of Soviet lithologists must be outlined. To this end, they point out that the Institute of Geological Sciences, Academy of Sciences USSR, ~~proposes~~ to conduct, early in 1951, an All-Union Conference on the Lithology and Petrography of Sedimentary Rocks and Allied Problems, in which representatives of various scientific and production geological institutions will participate.

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